

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9 and 11-12 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

A substitute specification is attached hereto, correcting various informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,189,607 to Shirasaki et al. (hereinafter "**Shirasaki et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

**Shirasaki et al.** discloses a data transmission device including a memory for storing a plurality of data consisting of a plurality of sorting areas. The device selectively transmits the data of the sorting area including a desired data in response to a predetermined command signal. Data of the sorting areas including data not desired may not be sent. A central processing unit is connected to each of the electronic cash registers through one or more communication lines and when the electronic cash register receives a command signal sent from the central processing unit, the electronic cash register acts according to the command signal to send specific data.

The Examiner has urged:

[T]he command signal taught by Shirasaki et al. represents a means for instructing store server to cancel a transaction that occurs at another POS terminal. Examiner further notes that the POS terminal responding to the command signal represents a means for executing a transaction cancel instruction.

Applicants respectfully disagree. **Shirasaki et al.** discloses that each transaction involving flow of data between master electronic cash register, slave electronic cash register and host computer is initiated by the host computer. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which each of the POS terminals (corresponding to electronic cash registers) has a “means for querying said store server for transaction data relating to a transaction that occurred at another POS terminal” and a “means for instructing said store server to cancel the transaction that occurred at said other POS terminal”, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. **Shirasaki et al.** fails to disclose that any of the electronic cash registers has a means to query any of the other electronic cash registers or the store server, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

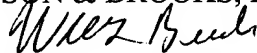
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/976,153**  
Response to Office Action dated December 17, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla  
Atty. Docket No. **011375**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:   Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure  
                  Marked-Up Specification  
                  Substitute Specification

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